Inter-linking of rivers on South West Monsoon

2388. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from various institutions like Indian Institute of Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, National Institute of Oceanography and India Meteorological Department met at National Academy of Science, Bangalore during the period 2005-06 and opined that more studies are required on the effect of inter-linking of rivers on South West Monsoon;

(b) if so, the action taken based on above report; and

(c) what is the status of the project on inter-linking of rivers as on date?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) From the 'Meeting Report' published in January, 2006 issue of 'Current Science' Magazine, it is learnt that a one-day meeting of earth scientists from institutions like Indian Institute of Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, National Institute of Oceanography, Indian Institute of Technology, Physical Research Laboratory, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology was held at the Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore on 15th October, 2005 for discussion; 'if the proposed river linkages were to reduce the total annual run-off into the Bay of Bengal (BoB) or the rate at which run-off is released into it, then do river linkages have any significant consequence on the Indian Monsoon Rainfall?'

According to the Report, the estimated fresh water influxes into the BoB from local precipitation and through river discharge are 4700 and 3000 Km ^{3}/yr respectively. The loss due to evaporation is about 3600 km ^{3}/year. It was opined that reduced run-off, a certain consequence of linking rivers in India to increase residence time of water on land, could affect monsoon rainfall both in amount, duration and spatial distribution. However, as admitted by them, the scientists were not in a poisition to quantify the effects precisely and felt that further studies such as observational and numerical simulations are needed. They concluded that their arguments are based on simplistic interpretation of presently available data on sea surface temperature (SST), salinity and wind velocities over the BoB and a more accurate relation between the runoff input and monsoon phenomenon will require more and credible datasets on various ocean, atmosphere and land based physico-chemical and biological parameters and modeling them for their inter-connectedness.

(b) The average annual water resources potential of the Indian rivers is assessed 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) whereas the utilizable surface water is only 690 BCM and the remaining water is bound to drain into the sea. The proposal of interlinking of rivers as per the National Perspective Plan would enable utilization of about 170-200 BCM of monsoon flows and still substantial quantum of water is bound to join sea. Further, even this volume of water involved in interlinking of Rivers (ILR) will not get conmpletely consumed and would in effect, flow to sea (Bay of Bengal) with changed routes by way of return flows and ground water recharge. Since the proposed quantum of utilization under ILR Project is not significant in relation to the volume of flow into the BoB as assessed by the earth scientists, it is not appropriate at this stage to hypothesis in the absence of detailed and accurate studies that the impacts due to ILR (if any) will be only nagative.

(c) The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging interbasin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NDWA) was set up under the MoWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links for preparing Feasibility Reports (FRs.) NWDA has completed feasibility reports for 14 links under Peninsular Rivers Development Component and two links under Himalayan Rivers Development Component. A tripartite agreement was signed among Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradeh & Uttar Pradesh on 25.8.2005 in respect of one priority link under Peninsular Component *viz,* Ken-Betwa link for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Inter-State Water Dispute

2389. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various Inter-State water disputes which are pending with the Supreme Court, High Courts, Central Government, Tribunals and Regulatory Authorities etc.;

(b) since when each one of them is pending;

(c) what is present status of each one of them;